



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Development Squadron FIVE  
Change of Command  
Admiral Cecil Haney  
Friday, 10 August 2012  
Keyport, Washington  
As Prepared For Delivery**

Aloha!

Okay, I am from Hawaii and given the significance of this ceremony and the warmth of the people here, what a fitting greeting to start my remarks.

Thanks Bob for that introduction and for your leadership here in the Pacific Northwest.

I would also like to thank everyone here who supports our Navy and our undersea capabilities; the best in the world! I truly appreciate your efforts.

Mayor Tim Matthes of Port Orchard, the leadership team here in the Pacific Northwest, the Navy League, and the Puget Sound Naval Bases Association, family and friends, and especially, the Development Squadron FIVE team, thank you all for being here today for this important occasion.

Brian, thank you for giving me the honor to be your guest speaker. It is my privilege to publically salute you and Donna for your outstanding work here.

Jeff and Trish, welcome to major command. It's great to have you both here.

I have known both of these outstanding officers for years. This is even more special to me as I have had the opportunity to speak at their Change of Command ceremonies in the past. It is great to also see your families here, given that we could not be successful at our jobs, were it not for the stellar support the families provide.

Brian and I were first acquainted in the fall of 1996. He had just moved into McGrew housing at Pearl Harbor; where I lived. Just after they moved in, their youngest daughter, Caroline, was born. So Brian was left with the responsibility of getting the two older kids ready for school and to the school bus stop. On one particular morning, as he was walking them to the bus stop, they ran into my wife, Bonny. She took one look at the way the kids were dressed and the way his daughter's hair was arranged and couldn't help but ask, "Is this your first time doing this?"

Brian, Donna, that was some years ago and those children are nearly all grown up now. I'm glad to see your oldest, Andrew, a senior at Northwestern University and your youngest, Caroline, a Junior in High School, here today. I also know your daughter, Erica, a junior at Miami of Ohio, would be here if she could have made it. She has already started cross-country practice where she is doing a great job. So obviously your children survived that earlier bus stop phase I just talked about.

Since those early days in Hawaii, Brian and I have served together more than once. Most recently, he was my Executive Assistant when I was Director of Submarine Warfare in the Pentagon. Now here you are,

preparing to leave this beautiful place to move across country and once again work in the Pentagon as part of the Navy's team working our strategy for the future. I know you will do great things there.

This will be an exciting time to be in the D.C. arena, given that the National's baseball team has a winning season, vice the Chicago Cubs, and you will get to witness first hand those sequestration debates. I know your leadership will help get us through this uncertain period.

Today, the United States whole of government is refocusing on the Asia-Pacific. Having traveled extensively during my first six months as the Commander of the Pacific Fleet, I had the opportunity to see firsthand how vast, diverse, dynamic and complex the Asia-Pacific region is. I have also seen how important it is for us to operate forward, deterring conflicts and ready to respond to crises, especially if deterrence fails.

Just a few days ago I returned from a trip through the Pacific Island Nations. There, I not only visited with the leadership of these nations, but I visited memorials and sites of such historic battles as Tarawa, Peleliu and Guadalcanal, where our forefathers fought, bled and sacrificed for our freedom in World War II. As a result of their heroism and the hard fought battles decided on those islands, and many others, much of the Pacific has benefited from relative peace and prosperity for almost seven decades.

Our Navy will remain committed to this vital region where we will continue to play a prominent role on the high seas, the littorals, in the air, on the ocean's surface and most certainly beneath the waves. Given the importance of the undersea domain in this endeavor, it is great to have Development Squadron FIVE on the same team.

While Brian has been the Commodore here, he has been hard at work on each of my priorities. To list all of his achievements during this tour would take far too long, and much of it is written in his award that you will hear shortly. Besides, most of it is classified anyway. I will, however, take just a moment to highlight a few.

My first priority is improving Warfighting Readiness. Brian has been hard at work preparing submarines for deployment and in the research and development of undersea systems. He improved the Seawolf submarine class maintenance plan, supervised several critical major submarine maintenance efforts and ensured their crews were trained and ready for extended deployments to places such as the West Pacific and the Arctic. His innovative leadership has also been critical in Unmanned Underwater Vehicle development.

Brian has also done remarkable work strengthening relations with our allies and partners; my second priority. While assigned to him, the Deep Submergence Unit played a leading role working with multiple nations supporting submarine rescue exercises, including PACIFIC REACH held in Singapore and BOLD MONARCH held in Spain.

Under Brian's leadership, he has supported my third priority, by sending personnel and equipment forward on missions with a purpose. The subs and detachments of Development Squadron FIVE have conducted seven multi-theater missions of vital importance to national security.

In the span of one year, every submarine or detachment underwent a significant deployment or operational transition; in each case with successful results. Additionally the assorted systems he manages were used effectively on United States submarines all around the globe.

But, at the end of the day, it's not just about the high-tech equipment or our technology, it's about people and family; my fourth priority; and Brian gets it! He uses inspirational leadership to ensure that Development Squadron FIVE is the top-ranked Pacific SSN squadron for retention.

Brian, your clear vision and steady hand at the helm of one of the Navy's most complex submarine major commands has been instrumental in the tremendous success enjoyed by Development Squadron FIVE. The accomplishments that I have mentioned, as well as many that I simply cannot mention in this unclass forum, are important to our Navy and our nation's effort in the Pacific. Your legacy will remain relevant and enduring for years, even decades to come. Congratulations on a highly successful tour!

Donna, you have provided Brian with tremendous support and you have been supportive of Navy Sailors and their families. Donna has been an advisor for the Submarine Officer's Spouses Association and a standing committee chairperson for the West Sound Spouses Association.

But for all that she has done to support Navy spouses and families, I think she is most proud of her own family and their incredible achievements. Donna, you have three wonderful children who are already working to achieve great things in their own right. Bonny and I are proud of this great Navy family and we wish each of you the very best.

I have also known Capt. Jeff Jablon for a number of years. We first met when he was the commanding officer of *Philadelphia* in Groton, Connecticut, while I was the group commander there.

While he was in command, I was able to get underway with him on *Philly* during their certification for deploying to the Central Command theater. There is probably nothing more thrilling for a submarine captain than to have his boss underway with him, right Jeff?

Clearly it worked out well.

Seriously, Jeff is coming off of a very special tour as the Submarine Force Prospective Commanding Officer Instructor. Where he has had a tremendous impact on the submarine community, having taught over 330 Prospective Commanding Officers and Executive Officers. In fact, right now; nearly every submarine Commanding Officer and Executive Officer was once his student. An impressive achievement.

Jeff, the one thing you have to remember now as the Commodore is that you trained the set of Commanding Officers in your squadron. Some might say that this means that you made your own bed, now you have to sleep in it. But from what I hear, you have nothing to worry about as you have a stellar set of leaders.

Jeff, today you will receive the mantle of responsibility of this tremendous command. I want you to know that you have my utmost confidence, that you are the right man for the job, and that you will do great things while you are here. I'm truly pleased to see you take command of Development Squadron FIVE.

I also want to welcome your wife Trish to the team, as well as your family. This is a family who is truly dedicated to the Navy. Throughout Jeff's career, Trish has been working full time for the government, most recently as a contract specialist. Through their full time careers, they have also been able to raise their three children, Ryan, Paige and Chase. I thank each of you children for being here today and for being so supportive.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for being here to honor these two families. The turnout for this Change of Command is a true testament to the leadership qualities of these two great leaders.

As I conclude my remarks I want to remind each of you that you play a critical role in the continued success of the many diverse missions being performed throughout the Navy. I could not be more proud of your efforts and your achievements.

Our Navy continues to patrol the seas to guarantee the security of our nation, and in turn guarantee the security of others. As we continue to rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, the undersea domain will continue to be critical in maintaining the peace and security that enhances economic viability in the region.

Brian, I know you will do great things at the Pentagon and with your vast Pacific experience; I count on you to remind the team back there to continue rebalancing efforts toward this vibrant Asia-Pacific region.

God bless our Nation, our Navy and all those who sail beneath the sea.

Thank you.